

REMARKS

The foregoing amendment is submitted to more clearly set forth the claimed invention and to address the technical objections to the claims set forth on page 3 of the Office Action. In particular, claim 1 has been amended to provide proper antecedent basis as requested in paragraph 2 of the Office Action.

All of the claims of the application (claims 1 and 3-8) stand rejected as obvious over Walker et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,250,685). The Office Action refers to Figure 2 of the reference showing a first game area (120) on a row having a first end (right side of block 120 E) containing play indicia; a second game area (130) on a row (130 E) and the same number of rows as the first game area (120) and being adjacent the first end of the corresponding row of the first game area. There is also provided a prize area (140).

On page 6 of the Office Action, comments are made regarding Applicants' previously submitted arguments filed on March 4, 2004. It is noted that certain suggestions are made to distinguish the claimed invention over the prior art. In this regard, the Office Action states that Applicant must further disclose the placement of each game area and game and may wish to disclose that each game is placed on only one row location with each additional game being on a directly adjacent row and further wherein each row is played.

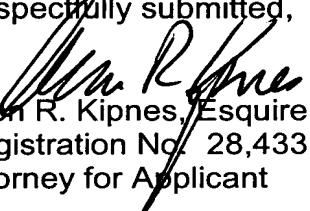
In response to the Office Action, Applicant has amended claim 1 to provide that the first game area comprises a plurality of rows with each row having a first end and containing a plurality of play indicia. It is now indicated that the plurality of play indicia in each row are for playing a single game such that the number of games in the first game area is equal to the number of rows. Support for this amendment can readily be found in Figures 2-4 of the application and in the description which accompanies the Figures and particularly at page 4, line 15 to page 5, line 14. It is therefore submitted that the amendment to claim 1 is fully supported in the application as filed and entry thereof is deemed proper and is respectfully requested.

Claim 1 now requires that a single game is played in each row. This is clearly different than the Walker et al. reference as exemplified by Figure 2 wherein the first game area 120 shows three strategies but only one is selected by the player. Thus, the reference shows three rows but only one game is played among the three rows corresponding to the row that is selected by the player. In contradistinction, the present invention provides a single game in each of the rows so that the presence of three rows corresponds to three games being played.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants' submit that the present application is in condition for allowance and early passage to issue is therefore deemed proper and is respectfully requested.

It is believed that no fee is due in connection with this matter. However, if any fee is due, it should be charged to Deposit Account No. 23-0510.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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